

**A Summary Report Concerning Citywide Schoolhouse Inspections  
By the Burlington Board of Health  
June 2012**

Vermont Statutes/Title 18 Health/Part 1 State and Local Health Agencies/  
CHAPTER 11 LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS/Sec 608 Inspection of  
schoolhouses and public buildings provides for the authority of the local health  
officer under the direction of the Board of Health to “make a sanitary survey of  
each schoolhouse, all school lunch facilities and any building used for public  
purposes and annually in the month of February report to such board and to the city  
council or the annual town meeting as the case may be.”

Despite having said authority, it was discovered that the Burlington Board of  
Health had not conducted any school inspections nor had it directed the Health  
Officer to do so for over 20 years. Consequently in early 2011, the Board created a  
School Inspection Team with Alan Sousie BSN MED as Team Leader. In addition  
to William Ward, the City Health Officer, other BOH members, and Chris  
Zuidema, VDH Envision Program Coordinator, were encouraged to participate.  
Today, the Team has inspected all, but three schoolhouses. The three remaining  
units are CP Smith Elementary, the Sustainability Academy and the Essential Early  
Education building on Colchester Avenue. These will be completed before the  
close of the next fiscal year.

The School Inspection Team started its effort by exploring other school inspection  
models, and ultimately determined to create its own means of inspection. The  
Team identified eleven specific inspection categories that it wanted to use, and  
then incorporated them by design into its own inspection rating instrument. You  
may see the list of categories in the attached copy of the Inspection Checklist.

With this new instrument in hand, each school was inspected and rated. The  
following legend was used to rate in each inspection category: 1=Below  
Standards, 2=Meets Standards, 3=Exceeds Standards. Shortly after inspection, a  
school-specific, summary report was provided. When any significant  
discrepancies were discovered by the Inspection Team, they were remedied  
promptly as a rule or an appropriate plan for correction was determined. In one or  
two cases, the Team revisited a school for follow-up and verification of correction  
of its original determinations. It is important to note here that the Inspection Team

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received outstanding cooperation from all school district personnel. In particular, we want to thank the school custodians along with Chris Giard, Mark Irish and Joel Fitzgerald of the Property Services Division for their assistance.

Upon completion of our inspection, each school was rated with a **“final” score** calculated as the average of its categorical ratings. These are those “final” scores and the dates of inspection for each schoolhouse:

2/15/2011	Taft School	2.7
3/22/2011	Champlain Elementary	2.05
4/26/2011	Integrated Arts Academy	3.0
5/20/2011	Flynn Elementary	2.6
9/23/2011	Edmunds Elementary	2.0
9/23/2011	Edmunds Middle School	2.2
10/28/2011	Hunt Middle School	2.0
4/23 & 26/2012	Burlington High School	2.3

The **“final score” average** for **all eight** schoolhouses inspected is **2.4**.

With this evidence in hand, it can be concluded that quality care of our schools is being accomplished by the individual custodial staff, the School Property Services Division staff, and in general by students and teachers who are keeping pace with them. The Burlington Board of Health gladly and officially affirms this finding.

If anyone wishes to review the individual schoolhouse reports, they are available online at the Board of Health webpage or as hard copy at the Burlington Code Enforcement office.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Sousie, BSN MED  
Inspection Team Leader

William Ward  
Health Officer